

## Climate Advisory Committee

### Minutes--

October 6, 2021

Approved 11/3/2021

Zoom

In Attendance: Beckie Finn, Rob Hauck , Ginny Jones, Donna Paulnock, Garrison Vieira, Kate Warner, Faren Worthington

Absent: *Russ Hartenstine, Sue Hruby*

Guest: Dan Doyle, MVC staff

1. **Minutes** from Sept 8, 2021 approved.

2. Dan Doyle presented information from the **Community Wildfire Protection Plan**. (CWPP) This was about a 1 year study.

Some notes--

- Fire behavior is influenced by Fuels, Topography, Weather. (We have very variable winds which increases our wildfire risk.)
- Debris burning is the number 1 cause of fires on MV.
- There is a lot of "red"- highly vulnerable- areas on the island map. Have to prioritize what to focus on.
- Access issue on back roads. Not enough turn-outs. Need to fix this and have agile vehicles that can get around when on a long dirt road. The lack of turn-outs is alarming and our fire trucks are too big for these roads.
- After a wildfire, there is a greater risk of flash flooding.
- Challenge of desire for rural look vs lessening the tree canopy on roads

Two things homeowners can do:

- Focus on property around your home and property AND
- Be vocal with conservation organizations about fuel reduction and doing prescribed burns

Suggestions as to next steps for Dan/MVC:

- Put fire maps at Town Hall, Library, other places for people to see
- Have a display at the Library
- Give a talk in each town, perhaps in conjunction with the Fire Chief to share what has been learned and what to do
- Prepare a handout that outlines key information

### 3. **Description of work to create neighborhood network**

- Rob talked about his neighborhood association work. His neighborhood is in the highest risk group. How residents can prevent and mitigate fire.
- Sending out a request to neighbors to fill out the survey if they haven't
- Also sending to landlords of houses
- Having arborists look at his property and determine what needs doing and for what price so it can be an example for others
- Access issue: who is responsible for what? Checama Path is too narrow and is inaccessible.

### 3. **CERT training**

Russ, Beckie and Garrison met with Noli Taylor to learn from Aquinnah's CERT training work. Interest in doing some events that both towns could do together. No date has been set for a kick-off meeting. Kate did prepare a list of those perhaps interested in the CERT training with email addresses for all. She expressed that when she called people to get their contact information, that people did not all remember signing up, needed more information as to what it was about.

### 4. **Faren's Outreach letter**

Faren shared a possible outreach letter to organizations that have established email groups and asked if we should focus on the ones that are specific to West Tisbury? It was thought that for the other organizations, it could be said that each town has either a combined energy/climate committee or one of each to make it more pertinent to a larger audience. She said she would post a Google sheet of contacts for each organization in the hopes that others can help fill in the information.

**Meeting adjourned abruptly at 6:00 pm (due to another Town committee starting their meeting.)**

*Ginny's water and Blue Pages research and Garrison's Facebook work, Sue's website page work will need to be reported upon next time.*

**Next meeting is November 3, 5:00 pm , Zoom**